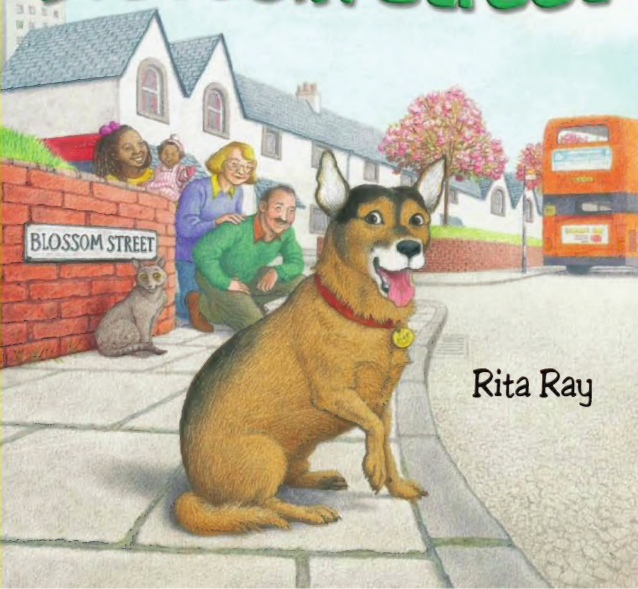




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The **BOSS** **DOG** of Blossom Street



Rita Ray



About this book

- Snap moves away from his favourite street, but he finds a clever way to return every day.

Talking points

- Look at the front cover and read the title together. Read the back cover and ask your child what they think the story will be about.
- Flick through the book, looking at the illustrations. Encourage your child to say what sort of story this is. Could it be a true story?
- On page 5 talk about the name 'Snap' and why it is a good name for a 'boss dog'.
- Encourage your child to read the story at their own pace.
- Read 'About the author' on page 32, which tells you where the idea for the story came from.

Read aloud

- Read Chapter 2 aloud together, letting your child read the spoken words while you read the narration.

After reading

- Ask your child what Snap would say if he had to move back to Blossom Street with Ada and Harry. Would he miss anything?
- Ask your child which part of the story they liked best, and why.
- Talk together about what you would miss if you had to move home, and what you might prefer in a new home.

The **BOSS** **DOG** of Blossom Street

RITA RAY

Illustrated by Susan Scott



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece
Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore
South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

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First published 1995

This edition 2005

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Data available

ISBN-13: 978-0-19-917957-2

ISBN-10: 0-19-957-3

3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Available in packs

Stage 10 Pack of 6:

ISBN-13: 978-0-19-917954-1; ISBN-10: 0-19-917954-9

Stage 10 Class Pack:

ISBN-13: 978-0-19-917960-2; ISBN-10: 0-19-917960-3

Guided Reading Cards also available:

ISBN-13: 978-0-19-917962-6; ISBN-10: 0-19-917962-X

Cover artwork by Susan Scott

Printed in China by Imago

1



Snap was a small black and brown dog. He was the boss dog of Blossom Street.

One Saturday morning he walked up and down Blossom Street as usual.

He sniffed all the doorsteps and lampposts. He wagged his tail at all the children who saved scraps for him. He poked his head into baby Kelly's pram. Kelly laughed and touched Snap's wet nose.





Then Snap made sure that the dogs and cats on the street were in their places. Dogs had to stay in their own back yards and cats had to sit on the back yard walls. That's if they dared to come out at all.

Snap trotted back to his own door. Everything seemed fine on Blossom Street. But everything was not fine.



Snap's owners, Ada and Harry, were at home. This was odd. They always went to work on Saturday mornings. There were boxes everywhere. Harry was taking a bed apart. Ada was putting cups into a box.



‘Hello, Snap,’ she said, as he came in. Snap sniffed the boxes. ‘You’d better have your Doggy Chunks before the van comes.’

‘What van?’ Snap thought. He soon found out. A big van came to the front of the house. Two men helped Harry and Ada to put all their things in the van.



‘I can’t move away!’ thought Snap.
‘Who’s going to look after Blossom Street? Who will play with the children and keep the other dogs off the street? Who will make sure the cats stay on the back yard walls?’

‘Come on, Snap,’ called Harry. ‘Say goodbye to Blossom Street.’ He picked Snap up and put him in the front of the van.

The children on Blossom Street came out to wave as the van set off. Kelly's mum gave Snap a bit of cake.



As he looked out of the van window Snap thought, 'If I move away, how can I do my job? I'm the boss dog of Blossom Street, but I can't stay behind. I can't leave Ada and Harry. Dogs stay with their owners. Not like some cats I know. They'll go anywhere for a warm fire.'

2



The van had to go slowly all the way to the new house. There was a big orange bus in front of it. Snap watched the bus and it gave him an idea. By the time he got to the new house he had a plan.



The plan could help him to be boss dog of Blossom Street, even if he didn't live there any more.

Snap felt a bit happier when he jumped out of the van. He went to sniff every corner of his new home.

The next day was Sunday and Ada and Harry had to unpack things. The new house had a garden at the back instead of a yard.



‘The dogs round here stay in their own gardens,’ Ada told Snap. ‘There’s no strutting about being boss dog. I’ll take you for a walk later.’

Snap went to see what was at the end of the garden and he heard a yapping sound. Something was trying to get through the fence. It was a little Yorkie dog with a red ribbon tied in a bow on top of its head.



Snap couldn't believe it. 'Ugh!' he thought. 'What a wimp! That's not a *real* dog! They wouldn't have a dog like that on Blossom Street.'

He didn't even bother to bark at the little dog. He heard its owner call, 'Foofoo, Foofoo pie! Come to Mummy.'

'Yuk!' thought Snap. 'Let me get back to Blossom Street.'

On Monday morning Harry and Ada went to work. 'I've left a key next door,' said Ada to Snap. 'Foofoo's owner will let you out in the garden, and we'll be home at five o'clock.'



'Will you stop talking to that dog as if he understands?' said Harry.

'What do you mean? Of course he understands, don't you, Snap?' said Ada.



Later, Foofoo's owner unlocked the door into the garden.

'Good,' thought Snap.

He ran into the garden and started to dig a hole.

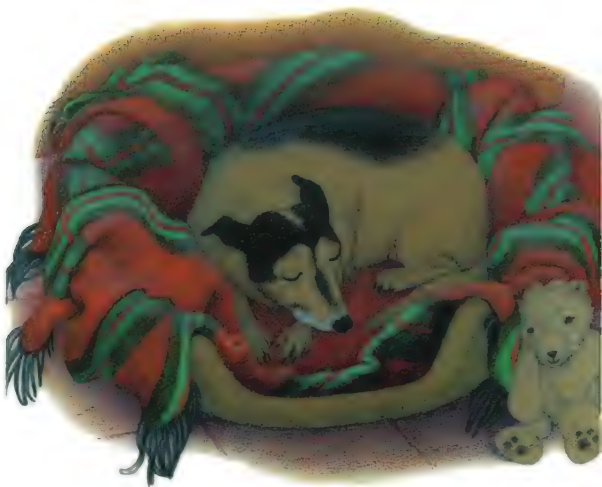
'Bad doggie,' called Foofoo's owner.
'Don't teach my little Foofoo bad tricks.'



Snap tried to talk to the dog on the other side. He was a large bulldog with droopy eyes.

‘This looks better,’ thought Snap. He barked in a friendly way. But the big dog said nothing at all.

‘I can’t stand this much longer,’ thought Snap. ‘I must try to get back to Blossom Street.’



That night he fell asleep thinking of his plan for keeping his eye on Blossom Street. As soon as Harry and Ada had driven off in their car the next day, Snap started to work on his plan. Opening doors was easy for a clever dog like Snap.

He set off down the path and out of the front gate. He stopped at the bus stop and stood near a man and a woman.



When the big orange bus came he jumped on behind them so that the bus driver didn't notice him. He sat up at the back and watched out of the window.



Soon they came to Blossom Street and Snap got off behind a man with a shopping bag. The driver just saw his tail disappearing.

‘Whose dog is that?’ he shouted.
‘Has anybody paid for him?’ But it was too late.

3



Snap was already running down Blossom Street. He sniffed at all the doorsteps and the lampposts. He chased a cat back on to the yard wall.

He put his head into Kelly's pram. Kelly laughed so much that her mum looked to see what was happening.



‘Snap!’ she cried in surprise. ‘What are you doing here?’ Snap wagged his tail and looked hungry.

‘Come inside,’ said Kelly’s mum.
‘There’s some meat left from yesterday.
You can eat that.’

When the children came home
from school they yelled, 'Snap! Snap!
We thought you'd gone for ever.'
They patted him and hugged him.
He played with them until they were
called in for tea.





‘It’s five o’clock,’ said Kelly’s mum. ‘I’d better take Snap back to his new house.’ She went to the door and called, ‘Snap! Snap!’ but Snap was not there. The children looked up and down Blossom Street. But they could not see him. In the end, Kelly’s mum set off to Snap’s new house.

Ada and Harry were glad to see Kelly's mum. 'Hello, Irene. It's nice of you to visit us,' they said.

'I've come about Snap. Oh, he's here!'



'Of course he's here,' said Ada.
'He lives here. He was fast asleep in the kitchen when we came home. I think he likes his new home.'



‘Then why was he in Blossom Street all day? I came to tell you,’ said Kelly’s mum.

‘Blossom Street? How could he be? It must be a dog that looks like him,’ said Harry.

‘Oh no, it was Snap all right. Ask the children.’

‘Just come in the other room a minute,’ Ada whispered. ‘Snap understands every word, you know.’

‘Rubbish!’ said Harry, but he went into the other room to hear Ada’s plan.



‘I’ve got a day off tomorrow,’ said Ada. ‘I’ll pretend to go to work as usual but I’ll hide and see what he does.’



Next day Ada watched Snap get on the big orange bus. She wanted to laugh. 'What a clever dog!' she thought. 'He does understand.'

She went to Blossom Street and watched Snap from Kelly's mum's front room.



At half past four Snap trotted off to the bus stop and caught the bus home. The bus driver said, 'It's you again, is it?' and let him on without paying.

When Ada and Harry got home Snap was curled up, fast asleep. 'No wonder you feel tired,' said Ada. 'It's hard work looking after Blossom Street all day.'

Snap pricked up his ears and opened one eye. 'We know all about it, Snap.'

Just then there was a knock on the front door.



'It's a reporter from *The Daily Snoop*,' said Harry. 'He wants a photo of Snap. The bus driver told him about a clever dog who rides on the bus by himself. More like a naughty dog, I think.'



Snap jumped up and wagged his tail. He liked having his photo taken. The next day everyone in Blossom Street saw him on the front page. The headline said, *Snap goes by Bus!* Lots of people came to ride on the bus with Snap so the bus driver made plenty of money. And Snap is still the boss dog of Blossom Street, even though he doesn't live there any more.



About the author

My name is Rita Ray. I think it is a good name for a writer because people find it easy to remember.

Snap the dog lived in our street when I was a child. He was the boss dog of our street and he really did come back on the bus to keep an eye on things when he moved. Ada, Snap's owner, worked in the sweet factory and she sometimes gave us sweets because we used to give her Snap titbits.





Fiction Stage 10

The **BOSS** **DOG** of **Blossom Street**

Snap is the boss dog of Blossom Street.
Everyone knows that. Then Harry and
Ada, his owners, move away.
What will Snap do?
Blossom Street needs
its boss dog.



There are six titles at Stage 10:

Jungle Shorts

The Boss Dog of Blossom Street

Mr Stofflees and the Painted Tiger

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The Masked Cleaning Ladies of Om

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For further information, phone
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tel. 01865 353881

ISBN 978-0-19-917957-2



9 780199 179572

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